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Docket No: 02309/000H713-US0

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No.	: 09/675,890	Art Unit:	1771
Applicant	: Naohito TAKEUCHI et al.		
Filed	: September 29, 2000	Examiner:	Terrel H. Morris
Title	: WATER-DECOMPOSABLE FIBROUS SHEET CONTAINING GEL COMPOUND		

LETTER

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the March 15, 2004 telephone conversation between Supervisory Patent Examiner (SPE) Terrel Morris and Michael Sullivan (agent for Applicants), during which SPE Morris confirmed receipt by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) submitted on December 3, 2003 in the above-referenced application and acknowledged that the references cited therein had been

considered prior to allowance of this application.

Furthermore, while Applicants believe that the certification made in the December 3, 2003 IDS is fully compliant with Rule 1.97(e) (1), Applicants hereby re-certify as follows:

Each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement submitted by Applicants on December 3, 2003 was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.

In view of the December 3, 2003 certification and the above re-certification, Applicants respectfully request that the record reflect the Examiner's prior consideration of the references cited on the December 3, 2003 IDS by initialing the list of references (Form PTO/SB/08) submitted therewith, a copy of which is enclosed with this letter.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 18, 2004

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PTO/SB/08a/b (08-03)

Approved for use through 07/31/2008. OMB 0651-0031
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Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO				Complete If Known	
				Application Number	09/675,890
				Filing Date	September 29, 2000
				First Named Inventor	Nachito Takeuchi
				Art Unit	1771
				Examiner Name	John J. Guarriello
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	02309/000H713-US0

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)			
	1.	EP 0 758 695	02-19-1997	Japan Tobacco Inc; Mishima Paper Co. Ltd.	T ⁶
	2.	EP 0 372 388	06-13-1990	KAO Corp.	
	3.	EP 0 926 299	06-30-1999	Uni Charm Corp.	
	4.	EP 0 802 282	10-22-1997	Uni Charm Corp.	

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 608. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), data, page(s), volume-iss. no. number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.			

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Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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